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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,012	09/15/2003	Li-Yuan Wang		1734

25859 7590 01/10/2005
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EXAMINER

EDWARDS, ANTHONY Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/663,012

Applicant(s)

WANG ET AL.

Examiner

Anthony Q. Edwards

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.
- 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 8-13 and 17-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-7 and 14-16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 - Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 - Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 - 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/15/03
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 17 is objected to because of the following informalities: the claim recites the limitation " the guideway" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 8-13 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,646,870 to Shih in view of U.S. Patent Application No. US2002/0172014 to Lung. Referring to claim 1, Shih discloses a storage device mounting apparatus for mounting a storage device (7) therein, comprising a bracket (2) adapted for accommodating the storage device, the bracket comprising a guideway (i.e., along the two posts 22, aligned in the front-to-back direction of the bracket), a first slider (1) adapted to be attached to one side of the storage device, a second slider (not numbered) adapted to be attached to an opposite side of the storage device (see Fig. 5), and a securing means (3) for securing the storage device (7) to the bracket (2). Shih lacks the slider sliding along the guideway and a stop means for preventing over-insertion of the storage device into the bracket.

Art Unit: 2835

Lung teaches providing a slider (40), attached to a storage device (30), sliding along a guideway (i.e., the inner portion of the U-shaped bracket), and having stop means (22) for preventing over-insertion of the storage device into the bracket. See Figs. 1 and 2 and the corresponding specification. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the slider of Shih to slide along the guideway, as taught by Lung, since the sliding motion of the device of Lung would provide access to the storage assembly of Shih via the top of the bracket, as well as via the front of the bracket. Likewise, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of Shih to include stop means, as also taught by Lung, since the stop means of Lung would provide precise location of the storage device through the front of the bracket.

Referring to claim 2, Shih in view of Lung disclose a storage mounting apparatus, wherein the stop means (22) comprises an aperture defined in the guideway and a catch (54) formed on the first slider, the catch engaging in the aperture. See Figs. 1 and 2 of Lung.

Referring to claim 3, Shih in view of Lung disclose a storage mounting apparatus, wherein the bracket (2) comprises a front plate (not numbered) and a bottom plate (21), and the front plate defines an opening (not numbered) for access of the storage device therethrough. See Fig. 2 of Shih.

Referring to claim 4, Shih in view of Lung disclose a storage mounting apparatus, wherein the guideway extends upwardly from the bottom plate (21) of the bracket, i.e., via posts 22 (see Fig. 2 of Shih).

Art Unit: 2835

Referring to claim 8, Shih in view of Lung disclose a storage mounting apparatus, wherein the first slider (1) forms a horizontal strip (12) sliding along the guideway, and a vertical strip (13) defining a pair fixing holes (16) therein. See Fig. 5 of Shih.

Referring to claim 9, Shih in view of Lung disclose a storage mounting apparatus, wherein the first slider (1) defines a through hole (14) therein, the guideway defines a securing hole (23), and the securing means comprises a screw (3) extending through the through hole (14) of the first slider to engage in the securing hole (23) of the guideway. See Figs. 5 and 6 of Shih. Although a thumbscrew is not disclosed, it is notoriously old and well-known in the art of modularized storage device mounting structures to utilize thumbscrews as a manner of securing the devices to a bracket within a computer chassis.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to secure the storage device to the bracket of Shih, as modified, since the thumbscrew would provide tool-less securement between the bracket and the storage device in a durable and simple manner.

Referring to claim 10, Shih in view of Lung disclose a storage device mounting apparatus assembly comprising a storage device (7), a bracket (2) accommodating the storage device therein (see Fig. 2 of Shih), the bracket comprising a rail (16) and a stop (22), see Fig. 1 of Lung. Shih in view of Lung also disclose the storage device mounting apparatus having a first slider (1) attached to one side of the storage device, a second slider (not numbered) attached to an opposite side of the storage device (see Fig. 5 of Shih), and sliding along the rail (see Fig. 1 of Lung). Furthermore, Shih in view of Lung disclose the storage device mounting apparatus, with the

Art Unit: 2835

second slider defining a cutout (54) engagingly receiving the stop (22), see Fig. 1 of Lung, and a securing means (3) fixedly securing the storage device in the bracket (see Fig. 6 of Shih).

Referring to claim 11, Shih in view of Lung disclose a storage device mounting apparatus assembly, wherein the bracket (2) comprises a front plate (not numbered) and a bottom plate (21), and the front plate defines an opening (not numbered) for access of the storage device therethrough. See Fig. 2 of Shih.

Referring to claim 12, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the apparatus of Shih, wherein the stop (22) is in general alignment with the rail (16), see Fig. 1 of Lung, and the cutout (54) is defined in an end of the second slider (see Fig. 2 of Lung), since aligning the stop with the rail would insure precise insertion of the storage device into the bracket, and since placing the cutout in the end of the slider (i.e., the second slider) would provide precise location of the storage device through the front of the bracket.

Referring to claim 13, Shih in view of Lung disclose a storage device mounting apparatus assembly, wherein the second slider forms a horizontal strip (12) sliding along the rail of the bracket, and a vertical strip (13) attached to said opposite side of the storage device. See Fig. 5 of Shih and Fig. 1 of Lung.

Referring to claim 17, Shih in view of Lung disclose a storage device mounting apparatus assembly, wherein the guideway defines an aperture (22) therein and a catch (54) is formed on the first slider, the catch engaging in the aperture for preventing over-insertion of the storage device into the bracket. See Figs. 1 and 2 of Lung.

Referring to claim 18, Shih discloses a storage device assembly (see Fig. 2) comprising a bracket (2), a guideway (i.e., two posts 22, aligned in front-to-back direction) formed on the bracket, a storage device (7), a cutout defined around a corner of said storage device (see Fig. 5), and a slider (1) attached to a side of the storage device, wherein said slider associated with the storage device, defines a screw hole (14) through which a screw (3) extends and is fastened to the guideway under a condition that said screw is vertically exposed to an exterior via said cutout for accessible operation. See Figs. 5 and 6. Shih lacks the slider moving along said guideway in a front-to-back direction.

Lung teaches providing a slider (40), attached to a storage device (30), which moves along a guideway (i.e., the inner portion of the U-shaped bracket) in a front-to-back direction (see Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the slider of Shih to slide in a front-to-back direction, as taught by Lung, since the sliding motion of the device of Lung would provide access to the storage assembly of Shih via the top of the bracket, as well as via the front of the bracket.

Referring to claim 19, Shih in view of Lung disclose an assembly, wherein said bracket includes a front plate with an opening therein, said guideway is essentially aligned with an side edge portion of the opening in said front-to-back direction so that said storage device (7) is inserted into the opening along said front-to-back direction and defines a transverse dimension similar to a lengthwise dimension of the opening. See Fig. 2 of Shih.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-7 and 14-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: referring to claim 5, it would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to (1) include on the bottom plate a rail parallel to the guideway, and (2) provide the guideway and the rail corresponding to opposite sides of the opening respectively. These features, in combination with the rest of the elements or steps, are not taught or suggested by the prior art references. Claims 6 and 7 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 5 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons provided above.

Likewise, referring to claim 14, it would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to (1) provide the bottom plate with a guideway opposite to the rail, and (2) include the guideway slidably supporting the first slider. These features, in combination with the rest of the elements or steps, are not taught or suggested by the prior art references. Claims 15 and 16 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 14 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons provided above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: U.S. Patent No. 6,556,528 to Kuang; U.S. Patent No. 6,238,026 to Adams et al.; U.S. Patent No. 5,510,955 to Taesang; U.S. Patent No. 5,319,519 to Sheppard et al.

Art Unit: 2835

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Q. Edwards whose telephone number is 571-272-2042.

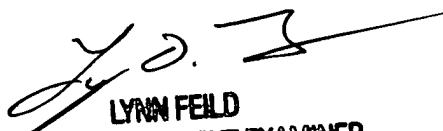
The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn D. Feild can be reached on 571-272-2800, ext. 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

January 5, 2005

aqe


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